



SUPREME COURT OF MISSOURI
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LANGUAGE-NEUTRAL
FOREIGN LANGUAGE COURT INTERPRETER ORIENTATION WORKSHOP

A court interpreter makes it possible for non-English speaking litigants to be “present” during their trial and be on equal footing as someone who understands English. Language is complex, yet it is often taken for granted that being bilingual enables a person to be an interpreter. In fact, few bilingual individuals have the special knowledge and skills needed to interpret accurately without summarizing, omitting, adding or changing what is said.

Recognizing the importance of providing equal access to justice, Missouri is a member of the National Center for State Courts Consortium for State Court Interpreter Certification. Membership in the Consortium provides standardized training and proficiency examinations (Spanish, Cantonese, Haitian Creole, Arabic, Hmong, Korean, Laotian, Mandarin, Polish, Russian and Vietnamese). Tests are being developed in Somali, Bosnian and Portuguese. Even if a test is not available for your language combination, this workshop will help you become familiar with what is required of a person to be a court interpreter.

As part of the Foreign Language Court Interpreter Certification Program offered through this office and in collaboration with the St. Louis Community College-Forest Park, a language-neutral two-day orientation will be offered **in St. Louis on June 12 and 13, 2004**. This two-day workshop will be conducted by nationally recognized experts on court interpreting, who provide instruction and materials regarding the different modes of interpreting, ethics, and the court system. The workshop is presented in English with bilingual small group practice sessions and exercises. This orientation is Phase I of a three part program. Please refer to the enclosed brochure for a description of the entire program.

The registration deadline for this orientation is April 30, 2004.

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Please share this information with anyone who may be interested in working as a court interpreter.